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RUTH VAN RONK: My name is Ruth van Ronk, v-a-n capital R-o-n-k. What an awful name. Well, I don't spell it every time you talk to somebody new.

30 years ago before I came to Pahrump I spent about 20 years or so in construction, highway construction with earth moving equipment and dump trucks. I observed a great number of house building projects and public school buildings. And for every job that I ever saw or had my equipment work on, there was a design. There was architectural programs. There were -- well, the whole damn thing went out to bid. And you had to have the plans to bid upon it.

Now, this thing is going to supposedly be built very soon, within the next couple of years, and the final impact statement is to be prepared within a number days or weeks, I've forgotten all that foolishness. And yet I read the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and the whole process is in a state of flexible evolution. And now I want to know when are they going to stop flexing with this evolving situation so that they can make their final statement?

Now, they have to have this solid in order to get the site approved and in order to apply to the NRC for their license. I picked up a paper over here that tells me that W. Cannon Davis was the energy department under-secretary to the Regan administration. He wrote a letter to the Bush White House saying that the project should be abandoned. And he was the principal author of the policy that identified Yucca Mountain as a potential site in the first place, now he wants to give it up. Well, I think he's right. I agree with him.

In reading the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement I was struck with the notion that these people just don't know what the hell they are doing; otherwise, they would be drafting their architectural designs and putting down they would be preparing their final impact statement not evolving and evolving forever.

Now they want to put in a dry storage pad up there of 200 acres of cement. Well, they decided not to use concrete underneath the containers inside the mountain because of the alkalinity, and yet they want to store these dry fuel pods for 50 years on 200 acres of alkaline concrete sitting out in the hot Nevada sun where the ground temperature gets to something like 150 degrees for 50 years. I don't think that makes much sense.

I asked about that storage pool -- and I hadn't planned on this foolish speaking tonight. I just wanted to stay home and be comfortable but sometimes one gets a bur under one's saddle. I asked about the storage pool, and I was told 5,000 metric tons, and that is for blending. Well, now, this blending business puts me in my kitchen. And if I want to make some warm water, maybe I want to make some bread and get the yeast right, you know. Oh, I forgot I had to answer the phone. The water boiled. Well, I want to cool the water, so I put some cold water in it.

3 cont. Now, they want to blend the hot nuke waste above boiling point with the colder nuke waste to get -- I don't know what they want to get, but they never done it and they don't know what the heck is going to happen when they do it.

When the first atomic particles were being experimented upon there was a meeting somewhere or other, I don't remember, I don't know what that was all about, but they had some of these cute little pellets. They didn't hold them in their hand but they did lay them down on the table. And these little pellets started jumping towards each other and all those scientists just about had to go home and change their clothes because they were going -- they were scared to death that these cute little pellets were either going to fission or fusion, and they didn't know what. And now we want to mix hot rods with cold rods. No, I don't think so. That doesn't make sense.

The gentleman told us 5,000 metric tons. This thing says 12,000 fuel assemblies as an inventory for fuel blending. Well, there's a difference between 12,000 and 5,000. I asked how big was this pool to be. Oh, about the size of this room. Well, they looked it up and it's 160 feet by 37 feet by 50 feet deep.

Now, from the front of this stage to the front of the kitchen there is 80 feet. Now, twice that length. That's the length of it. The interior of this room is about 44 feet wide. And it's to be 37 feet wide. So it's going to be twice as long as the room and almost as wide. It's going to be 50 feet deep. You know that's five stories? And they have no idea how much water that's going to hold. They told me to multiply it out and figure it for myself.

They don't have a source for the water. It's in litigation they told me. This is going to be -- these rods are going to be held in there for 50 years. And I would sure like to see some plans for this and see, find out who's going to bid on building these storage pools.

In fact, there's going to be four of them side by side. I didn't ask them then is this going to be one pool with bars in between like four attached pools or are they going to be four separate pools. I don't know, but I don't think it makes much differences. The whole thing is foolish.

4 | They didn't have any idea what the earthquake was going to do. And, yeah, that quake in '94, I think as I recall that was something like a 5.2. It did minimal damage to the DOE building at Mercury, if you call one million bucks worth of damage minimal. 7.1 is a pretty good size quake and that came in 1932. Looks to me like we just might be due for another one any minute now.

What have I forgotten? She told me hours ago that I was -- she's such a nice lady that I was. . .

MR. FLAHERTY: Would you like to take a look at your notes and come back in just a couple minutes? You're welcome to do that as well.

5 RUTH VAN RONK: I'm finished. I'm finished. I've covered just about everything. In the Yucca Mountain Science and Engineering Report Executive Summary on page 16 you'll find a terrific photo, aerial photo of the entire area. And you can stand on top of Yucca Mountain and you look down in there at what is labeled here as Crater Flats, and you can see all these cute little extinct volcanoes. Of course they're not going to blow up, you know, once in how many million years? That area is a caldera. If you don't know what is a caldera, look it up.